

Jeremy Hunt 'broke law over Lewisham A&E downgrade'



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02 July 2013

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt broke the law when he ordered the downgrading of a London hospital to bail out its neighbours, the High Court was told today.

Lawyers for Lewisham council and campaigners began a judicial review of Mr Hunt's decision to axe full A&E and maternity services at Lewisham Hospital.

They claim he acted beyond his powers and broke the National Health Service Act 2006 when he accepted a report that proposed the downgrading to tackle £207 million debt at South London Healthcare trust — which Lewisham Hospital is not part of.

The court was told the report was a "hatchet job" from consultants McKinsey. Lewisham Hospital handles about 110,000 A&E admissions a year and 4,400 births. Under the plans, it would have a midwife unit but no obstetric unit. The case continues.

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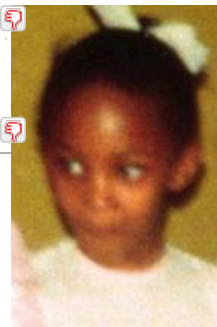
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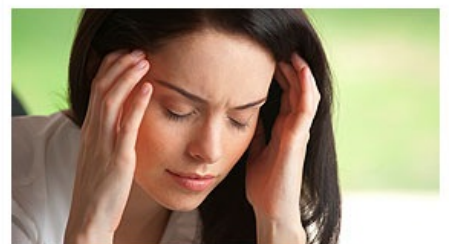
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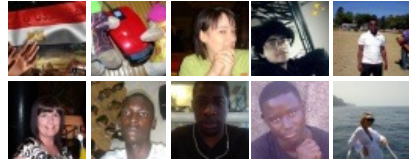
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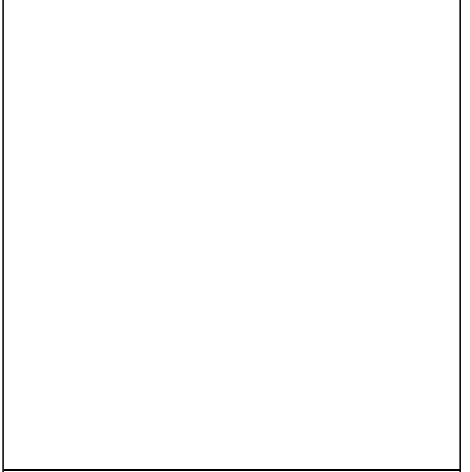
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